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ABSTRACT

Statistics regarding Australians participating in apprenticeships and traineeships in the automotive repairs and service trades in 1995-1999 were reviewed to provide an indication of where skill shortages may be occurring or will likely occur in relation to the following occupations: motor mechanic, automotive electrician, and panel beater. The review focused on the following items: commencements, number in training, and completions; age; Australian Qualifications Framework level; geographic region by state/territory; school attendance status; other training; and enrollment figures versus projected employment trends. The following were among the main findings: (1) the numbers of apprentices and trainees in all three occupations increased from 1995 to 1996 and then declined thereafter; (2) each occupation grew in the number of completions in 1995-1998, with automotive electricians having the greatest annual growth rate (15.9%); (3) except for the Northern Territory, all states and territories experienced growth in the number of commencements from 1997 to 1998; and (4) as each individual occupation experienced positive growth in commencements from 1997 to 1998 and assuming this trend continues, the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in each

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occupation category could be expected to increase in the future. (Contains 12 tables.) (MN)

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AUSTRALIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

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Australian apprentice and trainee statistics

Automotive repairs and service trades

1995 – 1999

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AUSTRALIAN
APPRENTICE
& TRAINEE
STATISTICS

Automotive Repairs and Service Trades 1995 to 1999

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Table of content

Foreword i

Table of content iii

1 Introduction 1

2 Commencements, number in training and completions, 1995 to 1999 3

3 Age 5

4 AQF level 8

5 Geographic region by State/Territory 10

6 School attendance status 12

7 Other training 13

8 Comparison with projected employment trends 15

References 16

1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide information on trends over the years 1995 to 1998 in the realm of contracts of training in vocational education and training in the automotive repairs and service trade occupations in Australia. Initial raw figures are also provided for 1999. This information will be used to provide an indication of where skill shortages may be occurring or likely to occur in relation to specific automotive repairs and service trade occupations.

The main automotive repairs and service trade occupations for which apprentice and trainee data are considered in this report are:

- Motor mechanics (ASCO code 4211)
- Automotive electricians (4212)
- Panel beaters (4213).

Comparisons of apprentice and trainee numbers are also made with projections of employment growth in the automotive repairs and service trade occupations.

Provision of this information will help to identify skill shortages for, or within, particular automotive repairs and service trade occupations or whether current shortages in trade occupations are likely to be overcome in the short-term.

Factors including widespread technological changes, the requirement of trade industries for more highly skilled and productive apprentices, increased competition in world trade and the need to improve the transition from school to work have had a major impact on the employment-based training system in Australia.

The government has reformed the apprenticeship and trainee system by making it more flexible and responsive to employer needs and ensuring quality training is provided. The new training arrangements covering apprenticeships and traineeships are collectively known as New Apprenticeships which the government began introducing from 1 January 1998.

This report focuses on providing more detailed information on such factors as trends in numbers in training, commencements and completions, in relation specifically to automotive repairs and service trade occupation contracts of training (that is, predominately apprenticeships) by each of the trade industry occupations: motor mechanics, automotive electricians, and panel beaters. This information is provided in the context of relevant economic and labour market information.

The employment forecast information utilised in this report is based on the data provided by Chris Murphy and Justin Douglas of Econtech in their report commissioned by the NCVER entitled *The Outlook for Jobs*.

Contract of training data considerations

The contract of training figures for 1995 through 1998 in this report have been derived from apprentice and trainee information available in the NCVER's December 1999 Apprentice and Trainee collection. It should be noted that the figures may change slightly in subsequent collections owing to the processing of late returns. It also follows that any growth rates presented may also change in the future.

The apprentice and trainee figures for 1999 in this report are estimated figures calculated by the NCVER based on the latest data available (preliminary reported data for December quarter 1999) at the time of this report. These estimates are used to take into account data reporting lags that occur resulting in all 1999 activity not yet being reported to or known by the NCVER. The figures for 1999 used in this report may therefore differ from those published at a later date and should be used with caution.

Figures in this report have been rounded to the nearest 100, whereas growth rates have been based on unrounded figures.

Owing to missing historic information for one jurisdiction, 1995 and 1996 completions data has been derived from the December 1998 Apprentice and Trainee data.

2 Commencements, number in training and completions, 1995 to 1999

This section focuses on trends in commencements, number in training and completions from 1995 to 1999.

Overall for the three selected occupation groups considered together over the period 1995 to 1999:

- Commencements fell from 6,170 in 1995 to 5,090 in 1997, but then grew to 5,610 in 1998. Based on preliminary 1999 data, commencements continued to grow, to 6,190 in 1999 (table 1).

- The number in training rose from 18,320 to 18,710 from 1995 to 1996, but then fell for two consecutive years to 17,450 in 1998. Based on preliminary 1999 data, indications are that the number in training continued to fall to around 17,380 in 1999 (table 2).

- In contrast to the trends for commencements and the number in training, completions grew each year over the period 1995 to 1998, from 3,210 in 1995 to 4,350 in 1998. Based on preliminary 1999 data however, indications are that completions fell to around 3,930 in 1999[1] (table 3).

Trends in specific occupations, 1995 to 1998

This sections comments on trends specifically in relation to the 4-digit occupations under review.

Each specific occupation declined in terms of the number of commencements over the period 1995 to 1998, with the number of commencements in the panel beaters occupation having the largest negative growth rate (-6.4%), falling from 990 in 1995 to 810 in 1998. All three occupation groups grew in terms of commencements from 1997 to 1998 with the motor mechanics occupation having the highest growth for this period (10.9%).

Each occupation showed the same pattern in the number in training, namely, growth from 1995 to 1996, and then decline from 1996 to 1997 and for 1997 to 1998.

Each occupation grew in the number of completions over the period 1995 to 1998, with automotive electricians having the greatest annual growth rate (15.9%).

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[1] It should be noted that completions data should be treated with caution due to the possibility of under-reporting.

Table 1: Automotive repairs and service trade occupation commencements, 1995 to 1999

	Number					Annual growth rate* 1995-1998	Annual growth rate* 1995 - 1997	Growth rate 1997 - 1998 (%)
	1995	1996	1997	1998	*1999 (p)*			
4211 Motor mechanics	4810	4370	4040	4480	*4900*	-2.3	-8.3	10.9
4212 Automotive electricians	370	330	300	310	*320*	-5.5	-10.2	4.7
4213 Panel beaters	990	970	750	810	*970*	-6.4	-12.8	7.9
Total	**6170**	**5670**	**5090**	**5610**	***6190***	**-3.1**	**-9.1**	**10.1**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates
(p) Initial raw figures only, subject to future updating
Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 2: Automotive repairs and service trade occupation number in-training, 31 December 1995 to 1999

	Number					Annual growth rate* 1995-1998	Annual growth rate* 1995 - 1997	Growth rate 1997 - 1998 (%)
	1995	1996	1997	1998	*1999 (p)*			
4211 Motor mechanics	14710	14880	14520	13960	*13890*	-1.7	-0.7	-3.8
4212 Automotive electricians	1020	1060	1050	1020	*980*	-0.1	1.6	-3.3
4213 Panel beaters	2580	2770	2630	2470	*2500*	-1.5	0.8	-5.9
Total	**18320**	**18710**	**18200**	**17450**	***17380***	**-1.6**	**-0.3**	**-4.1**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates
(p) Initial raw figures only, subject to future updating
Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 3: Automotive repairs and service trade occupation completions, 1995 to 1999

	Number					Annual growth rate* 1995-1998	Annual growth rate* 1995 - 1997	Growth rate 1997 - 1998 (%)
	1995	1996	1997	1998	*1999 (p)*			
4211 Motor mechanics	2580	2970	3290	3550	*3160*	11.2	12.9	7.9
4212 Automotive electricians	160	200	200	260	*250*	15.9	10.2	28.1
4213 Panel beaters	470	460	490	550	*520*	4.9	1.7	11.7
Total	**3210**	**3630**	**3970**	**4350**	***3930***	**10.6**	**11.2**	**9.4**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates
(p) Initial raw figures only, subject to future updating
Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

3 Age

This section focuses on trends in commencements and numbers in training from 1995 to 1998 by age.

Overall for the three selected occupation groups considered together over the period 1995 to 1998:

- For commencements, those aged 25 years and over had the strongest growth with an annual growth rate of 8.5%. Commencements for those aged 20 to 24 years grew slightly while falling for those aged 15 to 19 years (table 4).

- For the number in training, only the 25 years and over age cohort had positive growth over the period 1995 to 1998, from 930 in 1995 to 1,200 in 1998. In contrast, the number in training for those aged 20 to 24 years fell slightly from 9,830 in 1995 to 9,620 in 1998, and fell more strongly for those aged 15 to 19 years, from 7,560 in 1995 to 6,640 in 1998 (table 5).

Each occupation; motor mechanics, automotive electricians, and panel beaters; had negative annual growth rates in commencements and the number in training for those aged 15 to 19 years over the period 1995 to 1998. The converse was true for those aged 25 years or more except for automotive electricians occupations which remained at the same level in 1998 as in 1995.

Table 4: Automotive repairs and service trade commencements by age, 1995 to 1998

	Number				Annual growth rate*	Annual growth rate*	Growth rate
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 – 1998 (%)	1995 – 1997 (%)	1997 - 1998 (%)
4211 Motor mechanics							
15 to 19 years	3800	3400	3130	3370	-3.9	-9.2	7.6
20 to 24 years	790	770	710	840	2.1	-5.1	18.2
25 years and over	210	200	200	270	8.3	-3.3	36.0
Sub total[1]	**4810**	**4370**	**4040**	**4480**	**-2.3**	**-8.3**	**10.9**
4212 Automotive electricians							
15 to 19 years	310	260	240	240	-8.1	-12.6	1.7
20 to 24 years	50	60	50	60	6.6	0.0	21.2
25 years and over	10	(a)	10	10	0.0	4.4	-8.3
Sub total[1]	**370**	**330**	**300**	**310**	**-5.5**	**-10.2**	**4.7**
4213 Panel beaters							
15 to 19 years	800	800	600	610	-8.5	-13.2	1.5
20 to 24 years	160	150	130	160	-0.6	-10.1	21.5
25 years and over	30	20	20	40	12.2	-17.0	105.0
Sub total[1]	**990**	**970**	**750**	**810**	**-6.4**	**-12.8**	**7.9**
All							
15 to 19 years	4910	4460	3970	4220	-4.9	-10.1	6.3
20 to 24 years	1000	980	890	1060	1.9	-5.7	18.9
25 years and over	250	230	230	320	8.5	-4.4	39.7
TOTAL[1]	**6170**	**5670**	**5090**	**5610**	**-3.1**	**-9.1**	**10.1**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates

[1] Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

12

13

Table 5: Automotive repairs and service trade number in training by age, 31 December 1995 to 1998

	Number				Annual growth rate* 1995 – 1998 (%)	Annual growth rate* 1995 – 1997 (%)	Growth rate 1997 - 1998 (%)
	1995	1996	1997	1998			
4211 Motor mechanics							
15 to 19 years	5940	5610	5240	5230	-4.2	-6.1	-0.2
20 to 24 years	7980	8370	8310	7710	-1.1	2.1	-7.3
25 years and over	790	900	980	1030	9.0	10.8	5.5
Sub total[1]	**14710**	**14880**	**14520**	**13960**	**-1.7**	**-0.7**	**-3.8**
4212 Automotive electricians							
15 to 19 years	410	400	380	360	-4.2	-3.3	-6.0
20 to 24 years	560	610	610	610	2.8	4.5	-0.7
25 years and over	50	50	60	50	0.0	8.2	-14.5
Sub total[1]	**1020**	**1060**	**1050**	**1020**	**-0.1**	**1.6**	**-3.3**
4213 Panel beaters							
15 to 19 years	1210	1330	1150	1050	-4.7	-2.5	-9.0
20 to 24 years	1290	1340	1360	1310	0.4	2.6	-3.8
25 years and over	90	100	120	120	12.1	18.6	0.0
Sub total[1]	**2580**	**2770**	**2630**	**2470**	**-1.5**	**0.8**	**-5.9**
All							
15 to 19 years	7560	7330	6770	6640	-4.3	-5.4	-2.0
20 to 24 years	9830	10320	10280	9620	-0.7	2.3	-6.4
25 years and over	930	1060	1150	1200	8.9	11.4	4.0
TOTAL[1]	**18320**	**18710**	**18200**	**17450**	**-1.6**	**-0.3**	**-4.1**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates
[1] Totals include ages other than those in the range 15 to 64
Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

4 AQF level

This section focuses on trends in commencements and numbers in training from 1995 to 1998 by Australian Qualification Level (AQF).

Overall for the three selected occupation groups considered together over the period 1995 to 1998:

- Strong growth occurred in terms of commencements and the number in training at AQF Certificate I and II levels. In terms of actual numbers however, they count for a very small of the total number as the vast majority of commencements and numbers in training are at AQF Certificate III or higher levels (table 6).

- Negative growth occurred in the number of commencements and the number in-training at AQF Certificate III or higher levels, commencements falling from 5,870 in 1995 to 5,480 in 1998 and the number in training falling from 17,200 in 1995 to 16,780 in 1998. However, this trend turned around between 1997 and 1998 (table 7).

This pattern was generally the same for each of the individual occupations considered, although the number in training at certificate III or higher levels in the automotive electrician occupations increased marginally from 1995 to 1998.

Table 6: Automotive repairs and service trade commencements by AQF, 1995 to 1998

	Number				Annual growth rate*	Annual growth rate*	Growth rate
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 – 1998 (%)	1995 – 1997 (%)	1997 - 1998 (%)
4211 Motor mechanics							
Certificate I & II	10	(a)	60	90	108.8	142.9	54.2
Certificate III & higher	4590	4160	3820	4390	-1.5	-8.8	14.8
Not known	200	210	160	(a)	-73.0	-10.4	-97.5
Sub total	**4810**	**4370**	**4040**	**4480**	**-2.3**	**-8.3**	**10.9**
4212 Automotive electricians							
Certificate I & II	0	0	0	(a)	-	-	-
Certificate III & higher	350	310	280	310	-3.9	-10.9	11.8
Not known	20	10	20	0	-100.0	2.6	-100.0
Sub total	**370**	**330**	**300**	**310**	**-5.5**	**-10.2**	**4.7**
4213 Panel beaters							
Certificate I & II	20	30	30	30	11.4	27.2	-14.7
Certificate III & higher	920	900	690	780	-5.3	-13.6	13.7
Not known	50	40	30	0	-100.0	-20.1	-100.0
Sub total	**990**	**970**	**750**	**810**	**-6.4**	**-12.8**	**7.9**
All							
Certificate I & II	30	40	90	120	57.4	73.2	30.1
Certificate III & higher	5870	5370	4790	5480	-2.2	-9.7	14.5
Not known	270	260	210	(a)	-75.4	-11.0	-98.1
TOTAL	**6170**	**5670**	**5090**	**5610**	**-3.1**	**-9.1**	**10.1**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates
(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive
Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

Table 7: Automotive repairs and service trade number in training by AQF, 31 December 1995 to 1998

	Number				Annual growth rate*	Annual growth rate*	Growth rate
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 – 1998 (%)	1995 – 1997 (%)	1997 - 1998 (%)
4211 Motor mechanics							
Certificate I & II	30	30	80	100	57.7	69.8	36.0
Certificate III & higher	13840	14080	13770	13420	-1.0	-0.2	-2.5
Not known	850	770	680	440	-19.6	-10.7	-34.9
Sub total	**14710**	**14880**	**14520**	**13960**	**-1.7**	**-0.7**	**-3.8**
4212 Automotive electricians							
Certificate I & II	(a)	0	0	(a)	0.0	-100.0	-
Certificate III & higher	950	1000	1000	990	1.1	2.4	-1.4
Not known	70	60	50	30	-21.9	-9.7	-41.5
Sub total	**1020**	**1060**	**1050**	**1020**	**-0.1**	**1.6**	**-3.3**
4213 Panel beaters							
Certificate I & II	20	20	30	20	7.3	35.0	-32.3
Certificate III & higher	2410	2600	2470	2380	-0.4	1.3	-3.8
Not known	160	150	130	70	-22.5	-11.3	-40.8
Sub total	**2580**	**2770**	**2630**	**2470**	**-1.5**	**0.8**	**-5.9**
All							
Certificate I & II	40	50	110	120	41.3	55.2	17.0
Certificate III & higher	17200	17680	17240	16780	-0.8	0.1	-2.6
Not known	1080	980	860	550	-20.2	-10.7	-36.2
TOTAL	**18320**	**18710**	**18200**	**17450**	**-1.6**	**-0.3**	**-4.1**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates
(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive
Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

5 Geographic region by State/Territory

This section focuses on trends in commencements from 1995 to 1998 by geographic region of the residential location of apprentices and trainees by State/Territory for all three occupations considered together.

- Looking at Australia as a whole, only 'rural' experienced positive growth in the number of commencements over the period 1995 to 1998. However, all major geographic regions experienced growth in commencements from 1997 to 1998 (table 8).

- The strongest growth in commencements from 1997 to 1998 occurred for rural Australia, with annual growth of 17.7%.

- From 1997 to 1998, all States and Territories bar the Northern Territory experienced growth in the number of commencements.

Table 8: Automotive repairs & service trade commencements by geographic region by State/Territory, 1995 to 1998

	Number				Annual growth rate*	Annual growth rate*	Growth rate
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995 – 1998 (%)	1995 – 1997 (%)	1997 - 1998 (%)
New South Wales							
Capital city	1400	1350	1160	1170	-5.7	-9.2	1.6
Other metro.	280	260	220	190	-12.7	-11.6	-14.9
Rural	620	620	550	620	0.0	-5.8	12.7
Remote	10	20	20	20	9.4	27.1	-19.0
Total[1]	**2390**	**2340**	**2010**	**2050**	**-5.0**	**-8.2**	**1.6**
Victoria							
Capital city	1020	990	980	1030	0.5	-1.9	5.3
Other metro.	50	40	40	50	0.0	-12.2	29.7
Rural	380	450	380	450	5.9	-0.3	19.5
Remote	(a)	(a)	(a)	10	19.7	-24.4	200.0
Total[1]	**1470**	**1490**	**1420**	**1570**	**2.2**	**-1.9**	**11.0**
Queensland							
Capital city	510	440	370	500	-0.5	-14.4	34.2
Other metro.	140	120	110	150	1.8	-12.6	38.2
Rural	410	370	380	450	3.1	-4.5	20.2
Remote	70	80	80	90	8.1	4.7	15.2
Total[1]	**1140**	**1030**	**940**	**1200**	**1.5**	**-9.2**	**26.8**
Western Australia							
Capital city	340	80	70	80	-39.0	-54.6	10.1
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	80	20	20	20	-37.5	-53.1	11.1
Remote	60	10	20	20	-31.5	-37.3	-18.2
Total[1]	**480**	**110**	**110**	**110**	**-38.1**	**-51.9**	**2.7**
South Australia							
Capital city	240	260	220	250	1.4	-5.7	17.1
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	120	120	110	150	6.8	-5.4	36.0
Remote	10	10	20	20	15.6	16.8	13.3
Total[1]	**380**	**390**	**350**	**430**	**3.7**	**-4.7**	**22.8**
Tasmania							
Capital city	40	40	30	30	-12.3	-22.2	11.5
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	50	60	50	40	-4.9	-4.1	-6.5
Remote	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	26.0	0.0	100.0
Total[1]	**100**	**100**	**70**	**70**	**-8.3**	**-12.8**	**1.4**
Northern Territory							
Capital city	30	50	50	40	-2.6	-7.8	-33.3
Other metro.	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Rural	10	10	(a)	10	-100.0	-29.3	100.0
Remote	60	50	50	40	-	-	-6.5
Total[1]	**110**	**110**	**110**	**90**	**-3.2**	**-8.0**	**-16.5**
Australian Capital Territory							
Capital city	90	100	80	90	1.9	26.0	8.9
Other metro.	0	(a)	(a)	0	-	-	-100.0
Rural	(a)	(a)	(a)	0	0.0	-29.3	-100.0
Remote	0	0	0	0	-10.5	-12.4	-
Total[1]	**100**	**110**	**80**	**90**	**-5.5**	**0.5**	**7.2**
AUSTRALIA							
Capital city	3670	3310	2950	3180	-4.7	-10.4	7.9
Other metro.	480	420	370	390	-6.5	-11.8	5.1
Rural	1690	1640	1490	1750	1.3	-6.0	17.7
Remote	220	180	190	200	-3.1	-7.6	6.4
TOTAL[1]	**6170**	**5670**	**5090**	**5610**	**-3.1**	**-9.1**	**10.1**

* Annual rates of growth are compound growth rates

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

[1] Totals include other regions such as interstate and outside Australia, and may include unknown information

6 School attendance status

This section looks at commencements from 1996 to 1998 by the school attendance status of apprentices and trainees (table 9).

- Not surprisingly, the vast majority of apprentices and trainees have finished school.
- For automotive electricians and panel beaters, the number of commencing apprentices and trainees over the period 1996 to 1998 who were still attending school was negligible.
- While still comprising an relatively insignificant number of commencements, the number of apprentice and trainee still-at-school commencements in motor mechanics occupations experienced notable growth, from 20 in 1996 to 60 in 1998.

Table 9: Automotive repairs and service trade commencements by school attendance status, 1996 to 1998

	Number		
	1996	1997	1998
4211 Motor mechanics			
Still attending school	20	20	60
Finished school	3240	2930	4170
Not known	1120	1090	260
Sub total	**4370**	**4040**	**4480**
4212 Automotive electricians			
Still attending school	(a)	0	(a)
Finished school	240	230	290
Not known	80	70	20
Sub total	**330**	**300**	**310**
4213 Panel beaters			
Still attending school	0	(a)	(a)
Finished school	730	540	750
Not known	240	210	60
Sub total	**970**	**750**	**810**
All			
Still attending school	20	20	60
Finished school	4210	3700	5210
Not known	1440	1370	330
TOTAL	**5670**	**5090**	**5610**

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive
Source: NCVER unpublished apprentice and trainee data

7 Other training

This section looks at the general vocational education and training (VET) student population in 1998 for the automotive repairs and service trades occupations but excluding those in streams in which apprentices and trainees would be expected to be most likely enrolled (that is, streams 3211, 3212 and 3221).

It should be noted that for the apprentice and trainee data presented elsewhere in this report, the ASCO code is based on apprentices' and trainees' declared vocation, that is, the actual job that they are employed in. The data presented in this section are based on occupation codes assigned to courses to indicate the most likely occupation relevant to each course. However, students undertaking a VET course may not be employed in the occupation assigned to the course, or even employed.

The data in this section therefore provide a rough estimate of the amount of non-apprentice and non-trainee VET activity relevant to the automotive repairs and service trades occupations – regardless of whether or not this training is actually utilised in these occupations.

Indications are that around 6,830 students were enrolled in a non-apprentice or non-trainee VET course in 1998 relating to the automotive repairs and service trades occupations (table 10).

Just over a quarter (27.1%) were at AQF level III or equivalent or higher levels.

In relation to non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments relevant to automotive repairs and service trades occupations, the number of enrolments from those still attending school rose slightly from 200 in 1997 to 220 in 1998 (table 11).

Table 10: Automotive repairs and service trades: Non-apprentice and non-trainee VET students by AQF, 1998

	Diplomas	AQF Certificate IV and equivalent	AQF Certificate III and equivalent	AQF Certificates I and II	Other certificates, endorsements and other	Statements of Attainment	Non award courses	Total Students
4211 Motor Mechanics	0	910	650	1,140	470	2,160	870	6,120
4212 Automotive Electricians	0	270	0	0	150	260	(a)	690
4213 Panel Beaters	0	0	20	30	0	20	0	60
Net total	**0**	**1,180**	**670**	**1,170**	**610**	**2,410**	**870**	**6,830**

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

Table 11: Automotive repairs and service trades: Non-apprentice and non-trainee VET enrolments by school attendance status, 1997 to 1998

	1997	1998
4211 Motor mechanics		
Still attending school	200	220
Finished school	4060	4830
Not known	1210	1380
Sub total	**5470**	**6420**
4212 Automotive electricians		
Still attending school	(a)	(a)
Finished school	580	580
Not known	120	120
Sub total	**690**	**700**
4213 Panel beaters		
Still attending school	(a)	0
Finished school	80	50
Not known	30	10
Sub total	**120**	**60**
All		
Still attending school	200	220
Finished school	4720	5460
Not known	1360	1510
Total Enrolments[1]	**6280**	**7190**

(a) Represents figures between 1 and 9 inclusive

[1] Since some students enrol in more than one course in a year, the total number of enrolments exceeds the total number of persons taking courses.

8 Comparison with projected employment trends

For the selected automotive repairs and service trade occupations in table 12 below, the total number in employment is forecast to decline from 120,600 in 1997/98 to 118,000 in 2000/01 representing an average annual growth rate of -0.7%.[2] Given the annual growth rate for the number of apprentices and trainees in training in these occupation categories of -1.6% over the period 1995 to 1998, indications are that the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in these occupation categories will decline from its current level of around 14.5%. However, if the recent growth in commencements persists (10.1% from 1997 to 1998) the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation category could be expected to increase in the future.

Table 12: Automotive repairs and service trade occupations employment forecasts

	Average annual growth 97/98 - 00/01 (% pa)	Total employment 1997/98 ('000)	Total employment 2000/01 ('000)	Share of total employment 1997/98 (%)	Share of total employment 2000/01 (%)
4211 Motor mechanics	-0.7	98.2	94.2	1.1	1.1
4212 Automotive electricians	-0.8	6.8	6.7	0.1	0.1
4213 Panel beaters	-0.9	17.6	17.1	0.2	0.2
Total	-0.7	120.6	118.0	1.4	1.4

Source: Unpublished forecasts provided to NCVER by ECONTECH. The ECONTECH modelling methodology is described in Murphy, C. "Where the jobs are: the outlook for jobs" in P. Curtin ed *Future training issues in Australia's industries*, NCVER, Adelaide, 1999.

This general pattern, based on the same argument, could be expected to occur for the motor mechanics and panel beaters occupations. However, as the number in training for automotive electricians experienced only a slight negative annual growth rate of -0.1%, the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in this occupation could be expected to increase from its current level of around 15%.

As each individual occupation experienced positive growth in commencements from 1997 to 1998 and assuming this trend continues, the number of apprentices and trainees in training as a proportion of the number employed in each occupation category could be expected to increase in the future.

[2] Unpublished forecasts provided to NCVER by ECONTECH, Kingston, ACT.

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